

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text 'Call to Worship' and 'Psalm 2' is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, black font.

Call to Worship

Psalm 2

Psalm 2:1-6 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psalm 2:7-12 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

This Is My Father's World

Hymn 6



A Christian Home

Hymn 538





Praise and Prayer Request

Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Receiving of the Offering



2 Cor. 9:5 So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

Famous Quote:

“Our God is a consuming fire, and we try to reduce Him to something we can handle or are comfortable with ... We are religious consumers. We want our religion to be convenient. It’s the perpetual job of writers, preachers, the church and the gospel to help people respond to God as He reveals Himself.”

EUGENE PETERSON

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Today's Message

“Our Father”

Scripture text: Luke 11:1-28

The priority of prayer (v. 1). We usually think of John the Baptist as a prophet and martyr, and yet our **Lord's disciples remembered him as a man of prayer**. John was a "miracle baby," filled with the Holy Spirit before he was born, and **yet he had to pray**. He was privileged to introduce the Messiah to Israel, and **yet he had to pray**. Jesus said that John was the greatest of the prophets (Luke 7:28), and yet **John had to depend on prayer**. If prayer was that vital to a man who had these many advantages, **how much more important it ought to be to us who do not have these advantages!**

John's disciples had to pray and Jesus' disciples wanted to learn better how to pray. They did not ask the Master to teach them how to preach or do great signs; **they asked Him to teach them to pray.** We today sometimes think that we would be better Christians if only we had been with Jesus when He was on earth, but this is not likely. The disciples were with Him and yet they failed many times! They could perform miracles, and **yet they wanted to learn to pray.**

But the greatest argument for the priority of prayer is the fact that our Lord was a Man of prayer. Thus far we have seen that He prayed at His baptism (Luke 3:21), before He chose the Twelve (Luke 6:12), when the crowds increased (Luke 5:16), before He asked the Twelve for their confession of faith (Luke 9:18), and at His Transfiguration (Luke 9:29). The disciples knew that He often prayed alone (Mark 1:35), and **they wanted to learn from Him this secret of spiritual power and wisdom.**

Luke 3:21-22 Now when all the people were baptized, and **when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying**, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**"

Luke 6:12-13 In these days **he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God**. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles:

Luke 5:12-16 While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But now even more the report about him went abroad, and **great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.**

Luke 9:18-20 Now it happened **that as he was praying alone**, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." Then he said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

Luke 9:28-29 Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and **went up on the mountain to pray**. And **as he was praying**, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.

Mark 1:35-39 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

If Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God, had to depend on prayer during “the days of His flesh” (Heb. 5:7), then **how much more do you and I need to pray!** Effective prayer is the provision for every need and the solution for every problem.

Hebrews 5:7-8 In the days of his flesh, **Jesus offered up prayers and supplications**, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, **he learned obedience** through what he suffered.

Pattern for prayer (vv. 2–4). We call this “**The Lord’s Prayer**,” not because Jesus prayed it (He never had to ask for forgiveness), **but because Jesus taught it**. There is nothing wrong with praying this prayer personally or as part of a congregation, so long as we do it from a believing heart that is sincere and submitted. How easy it is to “recite” these words and not really mean them, but that can happen even when we sing and preach! The fault lies with us, not with this prayer.

This is a “**pattern prayer**,” given to guide us in our own praying (see Matt. 6:9–15 for the parallel). It teaches us that **true prayer depends on a spiritual relationship with God** that enables us to call Him “Father,” and this can come only through faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:14–17; Gal. 4:1–7).

Lyndon Johnson’s press secretary, Bill Moyers, was saying grace at a staff lunch, and the President shouted, “Speak up, Bill! I can’t hear a thing!” Moyers quietly replied, “I wasn’t addressing you, Mr. President.” **It is good to remind ourselves that when we pray, we talk to God.**

Romans 8:14-17 For all who are led by the **Spirit of God are sons of God**. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but **you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, "**Abba! Father!**" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and **if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Galatians 4:1-7 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, **to redeem those who were under the law**, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, **God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and **if a son, then an heir through God.**

True prayer also involves responsibilities: honoring God's kingdom and **doing God's will** (Luke 11:2). It has well been said that the purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven, but **to get God's will done on earth**. Prayer is not telling God what we want and then selfishly enjoying it. Prayer is **asking God to use us to accomplish what He wants so that His name is glorified, His kingdom is extended and strengthened, and His will is done**. I must test all of my personal requests by these overruling concerns **if I expect God to hear and answer my prayers**.

It is important for Christians to know the Word of God, for there we discover the will of God. We must never separate prayer and the Word (John 15:7). During my ministry, I have seen professing Christians disobey God and defend themselves by saying, “I prayed about it and God said it was all right!” This includes a girl who married an unsaved man (2 Cor. 6:14–18), a fellow living with a girl who was not his wife (1 Thes. 4:1–8), and a preacher who started his own church because all the other churches were wrong and only he had true “spiritual insight” (Phil. 2:1–16).

Once we are secure in our relationship with God and His will, then we can bring our requests to Him (Luke 11:3–4). We can ask Him to provide our needs (not our greeds!) for today, to forgive us for what we have done yesterday, and to lead us in the future. All of our needs may be included in these three requests: material and physical provision, moral and spiritual perfection, and divine protection and direction. If we pray this way, we can be sure of praying in God's will.

Persistence in prayer (vv. 5–8). In this parable, Jesus did not say that God is like this grouchy neighbor. In fact, He said just the opposite. If a tired and selfish neighbor finally meets the needs of a bothersome friend, **how much more will a loving Heavenly Father meet the needs of His own dear children!** He is arguing from the lesser to the greater.

We have already seen that prayer is based on sonship (“Our Father”), **not on friendship**; but Jesus used friendship to illustrate **persistence in prayer**. God the Father is not like this neighbor, for **He never sleeps**, never gets impatient or irritable, **is always generous**, and delights in meeting the needs of His children. The friend at the door had to keep on knocking in order to get what he needed, but **God is quick to respond to His children’s cries** (Luke 18:1–8).

The argument is clear: If persistence finally paid off as a man beat on the door of a reluctant friend, how much more would persistence bring blessing as we pray to a loving Heavenly Father! **After all, we are the children *in the house with Him!***

The word translated “importunity” means “shamelessness” or “avoidance of shame.” It can refer to the man at the door who was not ashamed to wake up his friend, but it can also refer to the friend in the house. Hospitality to strangers is a basic law in the East (Gen. 18:1ff). If a person refused to entertain a guest, he brought disgrace on the whole village and the neighbors would have nothing to do with him. The man in the house knew this and did not want to embarrass himself, his family, or his village; so he got up and met the need.

Why does our Father in heaven answer prayer? Not just to meet the needs of His children, but to meet them in such a way that it **brings glory to His name.** “**Hallowed be Thy name.**” When God’s people pray, **God’s reputation is at stake.** The way He takes care of His children is a witness to the world that He can be trusted.

Phillips Brooks said that prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance; it is **laying hold of His highest willingness.** Persistence in prayer is not an attempt to change God’s mind (“Thy will be done”) **but to get ourselves to the place where He can trust us with the answer.**

Promises for prayer (vv. 9–13). The tenses of the verbs are important here: **“Keep on asking ... keep on seeking ... keep on knocking.”** In other words, don’t come to God only in the midnight emergencies, **but keep in constant communion with your Father.** Jesus called this **“abiding”** (John 15:1ff), and Paul exhorted, **“Pray without ceasing”** (1 Thes. 5:17). As we pray, God will either answer or show us why He cannot answer. **Then it is up to us to do whatever is necessary in our lives so that the Father can trust us with the answer.**

Note that the lesson closes with an **emphasis on God as Father** (Luke 11:11–13). Because He knows us and loves us, **we never need to be afraid of the answers that He gives.**

Again, Jesus argued from the lesser to the greater: **if an earthly father gives what is best to his children, surely the Father in heaven will do even more.** This even includes **“the good things of the Holy Spirit”** (compare Luke 11:13 with Matt. 7:11), blessings that in the Old Testament were reserved only for a special few.

I Need Thee Every Hour

Hymn 443

